



FEDERAL HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION
Western Federal
Lands Highway
Division

CONSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER

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Bowdoin
NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE

BOWDOIN HEADQUARTERS PARKING AREA

Project MT RRP BOWD 900(1)

This week the paving crew for Hardrives moved in starting on Monday with paving equipment and those white trucks. Some of the guys were staying in Malta this week and the rest mainly truck drivers were staying in Havre. It made sense to have the trucks in Havre as the hot mix plant was there.

On Tuesday morning the plan was to have the first truck load into the paver by 7:00 am, but with some mix up in load times the mix hit the ground around 8:00 am. Like all paving the first day had a few problems that by late afternoon had been solved. Wednesday went even better as the first lane was finished to the cattle guard near the refuge. The paver was then moved back to the beginning and the north side lane was started heading east. Thursday started out fine but within the hour disaster struck, the paver broke a track, loaded to the maximum. Quickly arrangements were made with Havre to stop loading anymore trucks and, did they have a spare paving machine available to borrow. The answer was sure we do and we will load it up and ship your way. Around 11:00 am Bill Baltrusch came driving in with a lowboy loaded with a smaller but adequate paver. While they were waiting for the loaner the crew was busy shoveling hot asphalt and unloading the crippled paver. With the help of a Cat loader and winch from the lowboy Hardrives was able to limp the paver up onto the lowboy and taken off the job. Everything again started off smooth with the borrowed paver until late in the afternoon something caused the machine to die. They tried repeatedly to restart the paver with out luck. Now for the second time today a paver with hot mix fillings its hopper lay quite and still except for the scurry of orange shirted men opening and checking wires, pushing buttons and offering speculation of what was wrong. Finally a suggestion was made to try the switches in different configurations to see if one was a safety to prevent starting accidentally. Sure enough a click of the right switch after nearly an hour the paver once again was laying hot asphalt down Old Highway 2. The County portion of the Old Highway 2 was paved on Friday.

Next week shoulder rock will be added to Old Highway 2 and work will proceed on the refuge segments of the project.

If you have any comments or concerns related to the construction please forward these to the listed Email address or call 360-907-0685. If you would like this Newsletter Emailed to you just send me a request to the Email address listed below.

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TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL, SEND YOUR REQUEST TO charles.mikkola@fhwa.dot.gov